

Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr., today said, "The White House's response of `outrage' to the recent *Newsweek* story is truly a new milestone in hubris and hypocrisy for the Bush administration. We need to look closely at yesterday's official response."

Yesterday White House spokesman Scott McClellan told reporters, "It's puzzling that while *New week* now acknowledges that they got the facts wrong, they refuse to retract the story. I think there's a certain journalistic standard that should be met and in this instance it was not. The report has had serious consequences. People have lost their lives. The image of the United States abroad has been damaged."

In the name of consistency, Jackson said, "It's puzzling that while the White House now acknowledges there were no WMDs or a link between Al Qaeda and Iraq they still refuse to say their rationale for the war in Iraq was wrong. I think there's a certain standard of governing that should be met and in the instance of Iraq was not. The so-called facts this administration used to send our nation to war have had serious consequences. People have lost their lives. The image of the United States abroad has been damaged.'

"The hubris, hypocrisy, hyperbole and lack of humility in the Bush Administration's `outrage' at the *Newsweek* inaccuracies - in light of all the lies the Bush administration has fed America in order to invade Iraq - is truly incredible. The Bushies are full of hubris at a time when humility would be more appropriate.

"Yes, *Newsweek* was very wrong and unprofessional in their report about the *Koran* being flushed down a toilet. But

*Newsweek*, *Time*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN, FOX and many others in the media have been wrong from the beginning for allowing the Bush Administration, through them, to `sell' an unjust war to the American people. And, generally speaking, the media continues to let the Bush Administration off the hook on an almost `no win' situation in which they have put American troops, the American people and American foreign policy.

"Yes, *Newsweek* was wrong, but what's the lesson here? To me the message should be `Get tough.' Do your job. Investigate and report on *serious and important things*."

The American people need to be informed on the real issues - not just entertained with sensationalism. And that's the job of the news media," Jackson concluded.